

## SEPTEMBER 2020 AWARDS MONTHLY

1. Bronze Wreath of Merit: **Officer David T. Howard #2365**  
**Officer Joey D. Husen #2374**

The abovementioned officers was nominated for their efforts in response to a citizen reporting information regarding a potential homicide.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, a citizen visited Patrol South to report what they believed to be a homicide that had occurred in the 800 block of South San Pablo where she had been staying. Due to initial confusion, she had been turned away, but they later called 911. Officer David Howard and Officer Joey Husen responded and began to speak with the citizen. Both officers spent several hours interviewing the citizen in great detail about the crime as well as the location. In order to preserve evidence related to the crime, the citizen was not allowed back to the location of the potential homicide and therefore had nowhere to stay for the evening. Officer Husen called several motels in the area and was able to find the citizen a room at no expense to them.

Officers Howard and Husen prepared a search warrant and assisted in the execution of the search warrant. Evidence was located that verified the citizen's statement to the officers. The victim in the homicide was located just four days later in a separate location. Sgt. Gulliver contacted Detective Michelle Palmer who is the case detective assigned to the homicide case. Detective Palmer writes;

*"Simply put, these officers went above and beyond what they needed to do with someone who wanted to 'report a murder.' Without their efforts with this cooperative witness, I am confident we would have lost a significant amount of physical evidence. We would have lost critical interviews with some of the players involved...Because of the officers' willingness to put in the effort to investigate this case that same evening, we preserved the evidence, the scene, and we were able to hold the suspect on other charges while the rest of the murder case was investigated."*

Detective Palmer spoke with the citizen several times since their contact with Officer Howard and Officer Husen and they maintained that they were so frustrated at how they were treated initially that they almost gave up in reporting the information until they met with the Officers who had given the citizen the opportunity to tell their story. The officers had made the citizen feel like they believed what the citizen was reporting.

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the multiple suspects were charged in reference to this case including but not limited to: felony murder, aggravated kidnapping, felon in possession of a firearm, and aggravated battery.

Officer Howard and Officer Husen received Bronze Wreathes of Merit in reference to their efforts in connection to this incident.